



PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

130 W. CONGRESS STREET, 11TH FLOOR
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317

TELEPHONE (520) 740-8126
FAX (520) 884-1152
E-MAIL: district5@pima.gov
WEBSITE: www.district5.pima.gov

RICHARD ELÍAS
PIMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT 5

February 18, 2010

Representative Gabrielle Giffords
U.S. House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Congresswoman,

I write to strongly encourage you and the entire Arizona congressional delegation to support the request of Tucson-based Research Corporation for Science Advancement for \$1.2 million in 2011 federal earmark funds to stimulate the development of high-efficiency solar conversion technology and create related jobs in basic research and technology in Southern Arizona.

RCSA's request calls for the immediate creation of five jobs to provide infrastructure and support for the Scialog program. Scialog is a partnership between RCSA and Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz). The two foundations have committed \$7.2 million to this project, which will bring together on an annual basis the nation's top early career solar energy researchers and Arizona's leading academic-based solar researchers to pursue high-risk/potentially high-reward advancements in generating electricity directly from sunlight.

The annual Scialog research conferences will be at Biosphere2, which is within Pima County's economic zone due to its connection with the University of Arizona and with local suppliers. Solar energy now provides only about 1 percent of total U.S. power supplies. Dramatically improving solar-conversion efficiencies through basic scientific research, and doing it in Southern Arizona, would give our region a tremendous advantage in later developing a solar power industry to supply the U.S. market and beyond. The Scialog process includes entrepreneurial participation in its basic structure, which could be good news for future local job creation.

RCSA's request represents a very reasonable investment in the opportunity to power the U.S. with clean, abundant energy through advanced solar technology in the 21st century and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Elías".

Richard Elías
District Five Supervisor
Pima County Board of Supervisors